



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Ikuo TAKAHASHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1711

Serial No.: **10/698,934**

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: **November 3, 2003**

Confirmation No.: **5043**

For: **A BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC COMPOSITION, A MOLDED ARTICLE THEREOF AND A METHOD FOR CONTROLLING BIODEGRADATION RATE USING THE SAME COMPOSITION**

Attorney Docket No.: **032044**

Customer Number: **38834**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

February 19, 2004

Sir:

Applicants direct the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is attached.

Some of these documents were cited in an European Search Report for a corresponding European application. A copy of the Search Report is also attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, because it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application

and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee that is required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadao Kinashi".

Sadao Kinashi  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 48,075

SK/fs  
1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 822-1100

Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 & 13 References  
European Search Report

**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
CITATION  
PTO-1449**

Atty. Docket No. **032044**

Serial No. **10/698,934**

Applicant(s): **Ikuo TAKAHASHI, et al.**

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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
	AA	2,941,956	Bergstrom	06/21/1960	502	45	
	AB	5,484,881	Gruber et al.	01/16/1996	528	354	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
	AC	4-168149	06/16/1992	Japan	Yes (Abstract)
	AD	9-12688	01/14/1997	Japan	Yes (Abstract)
	AE	11-80522	03/26/1999	Japan	Yes (Abstract)
	AF	2001-525473 (WO 99/29768)	12/11/2001 (06/17/1999)	Japan (PCT)	Yes (Abstract)
	AG	6-184417	07/05/1994	Japan	Yes (Abstract)
	AH	2002-114893	04/16/2002	Japan	Yes (Abstract)
	AI	47-33279	08/24/1972	Japan	No
	AJ	1 193 050	04/03/2002	Europe	No
	AK	0 890 604	01/13/1999	Europe	N/A
	AL	196 30 599	02/05/1998	Germany	No

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

	AM	T. W. Campbell and K. C. Smeltz; Carbodiimides. IV., <i>High Polymers Containing the Carbodiimide Repeat Unit</i> ; J. Org. Chem. 28, pp. 2069-2075, August 1963
	AN	Williams and Ibrahim; <i>Carbodiimide Chemistry</i> ; Chemical Reviews, 1981, Vol. 81, No. 4, pp. 619-621
	AO	XP-0022666309, Nagano et al.; <i>Fire-, heat-, and hydrolysis-resistant polyester elastomer compositions</i> ; JP 11-021436, Abstract, January 26, 1999
	AP	Communication dated January 26, 2004 with European Search Report
Examiner		Date Considered